

**In the Claims:**

Please cancel Claims 1-25.

Please add the following claims:

26. An isolated DNA compound that encodes *Propionibacterium shermanii* methylmalonyl CoA epimerase.
27. The DNA compound of Claim 26, wherein said epimerase comprises amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO: 2.
28. The DNA compound of Claim 26, wherein said DNA compound comprises DNA sequence SEQ ID NO: 1.
29. A recombinant vector comprising the DNA compound of Claim 26 operably linked to a promoter.
30. A host cell transformed or transfected with the recombinant vector of Claim 29.
31. The host cell of Claim 30, wherein said host cell is a prokaryote.
32. The host cell of Claim 31, wherein said host cell is an actinomycete.
33. The host cell of Claim 31, wherein said host cell is *E. coli*.
34. The host cell of Claim 30, wherein, said host cell is a eukaryote.
35. The host cell of Claim 34, wherein said host cell is yeast.
36. The host cell of claim 34, wherein said host cell is a plant cell.
37. A method for producing *Propionibacterium shermanii* methylmalonyl CoA epimerase, said method comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 30 under conditions such that said epimerase is expressed.

38. The method of Claim 37, wherein said DNA compound comprises DNA sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

39. The method of Claim 37, wherein said DNA compound encodes amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2.

40. The method of Claim 37, wherein said host cell is *E. coli*

41. The method of Claim 37, wherein said host cell is yeast.

42. The method of Claim 37, wherein said host cell is a plant.

43. A method for converting (R)-methylmalonyl CoA to (S)-methylmalonyl CoA in a host cell, the method comprising culturing the host cell of Claim 22 under conditions such that said epimerase is expressed, and (R)-methylmalonyl CoA is converted into (S)-methylmalonyl CoA.

44. The method of Claim 43, wherein the DNA compound comprises DNA sequence SEQ ID NO:1.

45. The method of claim 43, whereby the DNA compound encodes amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:2.